

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County

Minutes of the April 7, 2015 Meeting

Began: 4:45 PM in Government Office Building Conference Room 306. **Ended:** 5:55 PM.

Attending: Marion Keenan, Ernest Boger, John Hickman, Carole Champagne, George Whitehead

Minutes: March 3, 2015 Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: No report. The 2014 balance was \$146.58 at the end of 2014. No changes are expected. \$510 is due in July.

Fall 2015 Intern Report: John informed those present that Jodi Morrison will select intern candidates by the end of April.

Dalian, China: No report.

Tartu, Estonia: Carole attended the Maryland Sister States Legislative Reception on March She met with Secretary of State John Wobensmith and Deputy Secretary of State Luis Borunda. The administration discussed business ventures with international and domestic companies. Multilingual and high tech needs were discussed. The Estonian Harju County table was set up by Toivo Tagamets and Milton Davis. Many Estonians attended the event, including members of the Estonian Maryland Exchange Council. The members discussed their participation in the Joint Baltic American National Committee Conference April 16-18 in Washington, D.C. Bryan Burrows-McElwain discussed Worcester County potential links with Parnu. Berlin and Ocean Pines may be more interested than Ocean City.

Salisbury, England: No report.

Cuenca, Ecuador: We will explore a potential Sister City in Mexico. The state of Jalisco is already a Maryland Sister State. We will research Mexican cities that may be interested in a Sister City relationship. Carole and Ernest will arrange an informal meeting with the owner of La Tolteca. The owner is a friend of Deputy Secretary of State Luis Borunda. The family is active in Sister States cultural activities, and they have connections with Jalisco and other Mexican contacts. They represented the Sister State of Jalisco and also a traditional Mexican dance company at the Maryland Sister States Legislative Reception.

Website: Carole sent the February Minutes and Sister States Legislative Reception report.

Future Topic: May Meeting coincides with Cinco de Mayo. Potential opportunities to meet with representatives of the Mexican community in Salisbury will be discussed.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 5:00 PM

Submitted by: Carole Champagne